

January 2006

Report on Institutional Child Care Grants

2003-2005 Institutional Child Care Grants

The Institutional Child Care Grant program was established in 1999 with the purpose of addressing the need for high quality, accessible, and affordable child care for students at Washington's public baccalaureate institutions.

Under Senate Bill 5404, Section 611 (3), the legislature provided \$150,000 in funding for the 2003-2005 biennium. A total of \$75,000 was available for each fiscal year and no institution could receive more than half the appropriated funds. Lawmakers provided a separate pool of funds for the state community and technical colleges.

Four institutions submitted proposals and received allocations in amounts recommended by a selection committee. These institutions were required to submit an interim report of the first year's activities and a comprehensive final program evaluation at the end of the biennium. Below are summaries of the institutions' expenditures and reports for the biennium.

Central Washington University

Year 1: \$17,951

Year 2: \$37,746

Child Care Central, Central Washington University's on-campus child care center, began an evening program based on parent feedback reflecting the need for this service. Operating hours were extended three hours to accommodate students attending evening classes. A survey measuring parent satisfaction with the evening program was administered and found that 73 percent said it was more convenient for them to attend class and that 100 percent said they were less stressed knowing their children were in a safe environment. The grant also provided eight full fee waivers for low-income students who are parents.

Eastern Washington University

Year 1: \$7,136

Year 2: \$1,102

Eastern Washington University Children's Center offered on-site training and technical assistance to child care teachers and workshops for parents tailored to the needs and interests identified by participants. Fourteen attendees received one college credit for attending the classes and completing assignments. As a result, the quality of care at the Center was increased, with strong improvements being observed in teacher skills and in the children's learning.

The Evergreen State College

Year 1: \$26,256

Year 2: \$26,036

The Evergreen State College Campus Children's Center provided training for student-teacher aids, increasing the skill level of student-teachers and their participation in this student employment opportunity. In addition, the new infant room was completely furnished with necessities such as tables and chairs, cubbies, feeding utensils, etc. And, financial assistance was awarded to needy parents through the continued use of a subsidized sliding fee schedule.

Washington State University

Year 1: \$11,845

Year 2: \$21,488

Washington State University Children's Center expanded the capacity of the evening care program by adding a staff member which allowed more children to be served while the Center maintained its licensed teacher-to-child ratios. In addition, participation in the evening program substantially increased through an advertising campaign. Free and reduced-cost services were granted to low-income students and fees were kept at a reasonable level for other users. Supplies such as arts and crafts materials, teacher resource books, developmentally appropriate equipment for classrooms, and walkie-talkies significantly improved the content of the evening care program.

Next Steps with the 2005-2007 Institutional Child Care Grants

Under Senate Bill 6090, Section 611 (2), the legislature provided \$150,000 in funding for the 2005-2007 biennium. Following selection and other procedures similar to the previous biennium, grants have been awarded to the following schools:

Central Washington University

Year 1: \$2,968

Year 2: \$20,668

Assistance will go toward improving infant-toddler childcare services by supporting a portion of costs associated with the employment of an Early Childhood Education Specialist.

The Evergreen State College

Year 1: \$4,032

Year 2: \$21,332

Funds will:

- Help maintain a sliding fee structure for low-income student/parents;
- Train 2-3 staff to become STARS trainers*; and
- Implement a childcare program for Native American students that are enrolled in the college's weekend B.A. program, which takes place on a reservation.

Washington State University

Year 1: \$33,000

Year 2: \$33,000

With the grant, the university will:

- Provide affordable evening child care for children of students;
- Increase accessibility for both day and evening child care programs including infants and toddlers; and
- Increase efficiency and innovation at the campus child care center.

Western Washington University

Year 1: \$35,000

Year 2: \$0

Funds will help the university:

- Provide more affordable child care for low-income families;
- Reduce the annual increase of parent fees;
- Produce an outcome-based learning model; and
- Establish a daycare newsletter.

* The Washington State Training and Registry System (STARS) was created in 1997 as a career development system for those who work in child care.